'DARK SPIRITS' DELIVERS GHOSTS, MONSTERS & PLENTY OF CHILLS

Book by Richard Estep / Review by Paul Dale Roberts, Halo Paranormal Investigations

As a paranormal investigator since 2004, and someone who has been curious about the paranormal since childhood, this book fits really well in my hands. There are so many things covered in *Dark Spirits: Monsters, Demons and Devils (The Real Unexplained! Collection)*, a book by Richard Estep, that I have experienced firsthand as a paranormal investigator.

Richard Estep's *Dark Spirits: Monsters, Demons, and Devils* explores a chilling mix of hauntings, creatures, curses, and dark legends.

Personal Connections to the Paranormal

Going down the list, I found plenty of subjects that I have a connection to. First, there are shapeshifters. I conducted my own investigation at Skinwalker Ranch. While there, I heard a screeching noise that I was completely unfamiliar with. Could it have been a Skinwalker?

Then there is John Wayne Gacy's ghost. I have received reports that the ghost of Richard Ramirez, the Night Stalker, haunts some of the sites where his victims were murdered. I didn't realize another serial killer, John Wayne Gacy, may also be walking around as a ghost.

The book also covers Black-Eyed Children. I actually investigated a home in Sacramento where Black-Eyed Kids were reportedly knocking on the door. Then there is the *Poltergeist* movie curse. I investigated a case involving a couple who purchased a doll on eBay that had belonged to cast member Heather O'Rourke. Afterward, all kinds of terrible things started happening to the couple. The story was featured on *Case Closed With AJ Benza*. Yes, the curse continues.

The Salem Witch Trials are also covered. I went to Salem and conducted my own investigation, with results! And then there is Bigfoot. I did some Bigfoot hunting at Mount Shasta, plus I worked for the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and saw some reports about Bigfoot.

The Cecil Hotel is another familiar subject in the book. I actually stayed at the Cecil Hotel when I was working with the Governor's Office of Emergency Services during the Northridge earthquake.

For me, as a seasoned paranormal investigator, a book like this brings back memories. But for the paranormal enthusiast or novice, this is also a book that will enlighten you about many aspects of the paranormal. Richard takes you down the dark, forbidden hallways of the unknown.

Ghost Stories, Curses & Haunted Places

As I went through the book, I was intrigued by the story of "Pigeon" Goldie Osgood, who was raped and murdered in one of the Cecil Hotel's rooms. Richard explains how a male guest later stayed in the room where Goldie was murdered and was nearly choked to death by an evil entity that supposedly dwells there.

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As I continued through this mesmerizing book, I learned about the haunting activity at the Waring House. This was a story I wasn't familiar with, and I was fascinated by the mischievous little boy ghost who reportedly plays tricks on staffers and guests. Richard's colleague, Catlyn, may have experienced some of those tricks when she used the restroom. Someone, or something, appeared to be holding the restroom door handle, preventing her from getting out. Catlyn initially blamed her teammates, only to discover that they had nothing to do with it. It appears she got pranked by a ghost. I bet that boy ghost had a good laugh.

Down the dark hallways of the unknown.

If you want to learn more about Waverly Hills Sanatorium, it's in this book too. This is a good reference book filled with information about the Bermuda Triangle; the Exorcist Boy, Ronald Hunkeler; Countess Elizabeth Bathory, who was said to have bathed in virgins' blood; Dracula; and so much more.

Vampires, Monsters & Dark Legends

I especially enjoyed reading about a lesser-known vampire named Theodore "Todor" Glava, who was possibly born in Transylvania. The townspeople truly believed Glava was a vampire, and they dug up his grave and drove a stake through his heart. His legend continues to this day.

Is there a Superman curse? Christopher Reeve was paralyzed in a horse-riding accident, while George Reeves died by suicide. It would appear that misfortune has followed some actors who portrayed Superman. Let's hope it's not true.

I never get tired of the Amityville Horror, and, yes, there is a nice write-up about this bizarre case.

You want monsters? You've got the Abominable Snowman, the Lambton Worm, the Slide-Rock Bolter, the Loch Ness Monster, the Wendigo, and much more.

A Supernatural Smorgasbord

I got a whole smorgasbord of supernatural stories from this book, including the abduction of Betty and Barney Hill, the Goatman legend, and plenty of other creepy stories that will give you goosebumps.

I had to keep the lights on while reading this book. Be prepared to shake and shiver! ◆